

HOUSE RESOLUTION 5

By Jones S

A RESOLUTION to support the right for individuals with eating disorders to receive comprehensive, accessible, fully-funded, and specialized care.

WHEREAS, eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorders, and all related ailments, are serious mental disorders which devastate the physical, psychological, and social well-being of millions of people and their families and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, anorexia nervosa has one of the highest mortality rates of any psychiatric disorder; and

WHEREAS, people with eating disorders have a right to high quality, evidence-based care delivered by competent practitioners at an appropriate intensity and duration; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee reported a percentage higher than the national average of students who did not eat for twenty-four or more hours to lose weight, according to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS); and

WHEREAS, the YRBS also reported that Tennessee is above the national average of students taking diet pills, laxatives, powders, and liquids without a doctor's advice to lose weight; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has an adult obesity rate of 27.4 percent, fifth highest in the country, and a youth obesity rate of 20 percent, the fourth highest in the country, according to a report by Trust for America's Health, and many of these individuals also suffer from binge eating disorders; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders span all ethnic and socioeconomic groups, and studies show that binge eating and bulimia rates among African-American and Hispanic females are the same as those among Caucasian females. Studies also report laxative and diuretic use and

vomiting behaviors among African-American females are higher than the rates of similar behaviors among Caucasian females; and

WHEREAS, twenty years ago, it was thought that for every ten to fifteen women with an eating disorder, there is one man suffering from similar eating disorders and, in February 2007, researchers at Harvard Medical School suggested that up to 25 percent of adults with eating disorders are male; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that there is a committed effort to educate and inform our communities of the dangers of eating disorders by utilizing programs which: promote the understanding that an eating disorder is not an illness of choice and raise awareness of the causes of eating disorders, increase public awareness of the signs and symptoms of eating disorders, make available comprehensive information about eating disorder services and resources, provide accurate information on eating disorders and help shift the cultural perspective on body image issues and weight and food issues, provide people with access to fully-funded, specialized treatment and care, and fund research into eating disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any proposed legislation addressing issues relating to the prevention of obesity and overweight children and adults also include language referencing and/or discussing the prevention of eating disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.